

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 061015Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2407
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05680

E. O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UK, UR, FR, US
SUBJECT: WOLF RUEDIGER HESS IN BRITAIN

REF: (A) BERLIN 808; (B) LONDON 4476

1. WOLF RUEDIGER HESS, SON OF RUDOLPH HESS, CALLED AT EMBASSY APRIL 5 TO SEEK USG SUPPORT IN HIS EFFORTS TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF HIS FATHER. AFTER OUTLINING BACKGROUND OF CASE, HESS SAID RECENT EVENTS (I.E., FATHER'S SUICIDE ATTEMPT) HAD HEIGHTENED HIS CONCERN FOR THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF HIS FATHER.
2. HESS SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE COULD DETERMINE, THERE WAS A CHOICE OF OPTIONS OPEN TO THE WESTERN COUNTRIES IF THEY WISHED TO RELEASE RUDOLPH HESS WITHOUT DESTROYING THE "POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS" OF THE QA:

A. INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE USSR - IN THIS CONNECTION, HESS SUGGESTED HUMANITARIAN APPEALS TIED TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

B. "MEDICAL EVACUATION" OF RUDOLPH HESS TO THE
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US OR THE UK WHILE ONE OF THESE POWERS WAS ON PRISON GUARD DUTY. THE FACE-SAVING RATIONALE WOULD BE THAT THE PRISONER URGENTLY REQUIRED MEDICAL ATTENTION NOT AVAILABLE FROM THE MILITARY HOSPITALS IN BERLIN.

C. THE SOLUTION SUGGESTED BY "TIMES" COLUMNIST BERNARD LEVIN - THE WESTERN POWERS SHOULD RELEASE HESS ON PAROLE AND PUT THE SOVIETS IN THE POSITION OF

HAVING TO REINCARCERATE HIM IN SPANDAU WHEN THEIR
TURN FOR GUARD DUTY CAME UP.

3. HESS SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE
OF RUDOLF HESS BY ONE OF THE WESTERN POWERS WAS
IMPRACTICAL IN TERMS OF QA POLITICAL REALITIES, BUT
HE SAID HE WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO
SECURE HIS FATHER'S RELEASE BEFORE THE NEXT SOVIET
TOUR OF GUARD DUTY.

4. EMBOFF PROMISED TO RELAY HESS' CONCERNS TO THE
APPROPRIATE USG AUTHORITIES AND SUGGESTED THAT HE
MIGHT WISH TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH EITHER AMEMBASSY
BONN, AMCONOE MUNICH (WHERE HE LIVES), OR
USBER.

5. HESS' CALL AT EMBASSY CAME AT THE END OF A SHORT
VISIT TO UK, WHERE HE MET WITH THE "FREEDOM FOR
RUDOLF HESS COMMITTEE" (REFTEL B). THROUGH THE
COMMITTEE, HESS MET PARLIAMENTARY MINISTER OF STATE
FRANK JUDD AT FCO ON APRIL 4. JUDD REPORTEDLY TOLD
HESS THAT IF HMG WERE FREE TO ACT UNILATERALLY,
RUDOLF HESS WOULD BE RELEASED ON HUMANITARIAN
GROUNDS, BUT THE CONSENT OF THE FOUR POWERS,
SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING THE USSR, WAS NECESSARY.
HESS' VISIT TO THE UK AND HIS MEETING WITH JUDD
RECEIVED INSIDE-PAGE COVERAGE IN THE LONDON PRESS
OF APRIL 5.

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